

# Cross Currents

Newsletter of the Haydenville Congregational Church  
February 2010 *Open Hearts & Open Minds & Open Doors*

## FROM THE PASTOR

Lent is fast approaching; Ash Wednesday is February 17th. Lent is a time of preparing, cleansing and reflecting on one's spiritual life. It is a time to engage in acts of penitence and generosity. Lent is a quiet time--a time to draw inside, a time to draw closer to God. It is a special time, a sacred time... Many people have Lenten rituals that they engage in every year. Some people fast one day a week, some folks give up chocolate or meat or all sweets/desserts. Some folks add a special prayer time to their days including reading the Bible or a devotional or prayer book. I have a suggestion for you for this year. My suggestion is that you "mix it up" as young people now say (I learned that from my son). This Lent I want you to "mix it up" and by that I mean do something very different than in years past. If in years past you have fasted one day a week, this year cook like crazy one day a week and bring all the food you make to a local homeless shelter. If in years past you said special prayers in the morning, turn that on its head and take time every evening to make an inventory of your day: What did I learn today? Did I do acts of service? When today did I experience the presence of God? What did I avoid? What did I embrace? (and so on!).

Another way to mix it up this Lent is if in years past you always prayed alone, this year find times and ways to pray with others--in your home or their home, before meals, with a friend at evening time. If in years past you gave up a particular food (chocolate, meat, all desserts), this year you could decide to eat more of some foods instead like more rice and beans to be in solidarity with people for whom those are staple foods throughout the year. If in years past you have had a tradition of giving away money to good causes during Lent (probably by writing checks and mailing your contributions to places), mix it up this year and put cash/bills in your pockets, go to downtown

Northampton and give all the money away to people asking for help on the streets.

My plan this Lent is to return to a practice I began in December....that is to climb Mount Tom alone at sunrise. I did this during Advent and found it a very special time to talk and listen to God. I spoke to God and I heard God in the little stream I hike next to, I saw God in the sunrise and blue sky, I felt God when I reached the top and looked out over our very beautiful Valley. This Lent I am going to climb Mount Tom at sunrise three days a week and visit with God. As many of you have told me and I heartily agree, God feels very close when we are in nature. And I would add God feels particularly close when we are in nature alone.



Whatever you choose, I want to encourage you to do something different this Lent. Take your old pattern and mix it up. OR begin a ritual this year if you have never observed Lent in years past. Whatever you do, the point is to change your behavior enough, each day for 40 days, so that you remember to notice the presence of God. You can be reminded of the presence of

God by what you cook, what you eat, what you do with your money, where you walk, when you pray, how you pray, and the list goes on and on. Whatever you do, may this Lent help you experience the enduring, loving, grace-filled and powerful presence of God as you prepare for the pain of Holy Week and the joy of Easter.

With Loving Blessings,

## NOTE FROM MATILDA: CHILDREN'S CHURCH

*Isaiah dreamed dreams for the child of Israel. It is a vision about every child. Splendor. Your light is here. No matter what darkness covers our earth, no matter how thick the clouds, there is a hidden glory shining here, a radiance... We have but to raise our eyes and look about us, to see the children, close or afar... More dear than the wealth of nations and sea treasure, more lavish than caravans of gifts, more precious than gold, more fragrant than incense, in them we praise God... -John Kavanaugh*



Every year as the season of Lent approaches adults involved in Christian Religious Education ask ourselves, "How are we going to explain the cross?" We are always concerned with how to tell the story of the crucifixion so as not to frighten or confuse the children. But as we try to stay true to our vision of children's spirituality, it turns out that it may be that the story of the cross is exactly what the children need to hear.

Not the story told in popular culture, of blood and torture. Not the story told in some classrooms of sin and sacrifice. But instead, the story of the mystery that lives in all of us. The story of inspiration and love, loss and sadness, and recollection and the miracle of carrying on... This is what the story of the cross is really about, and these things are as much a part of children's lives as they are of ours.

A few years ago, two of our Children's Church Children lost a friend to childhood cancer. With their mother's help, we focused two of our CC sessions on bereavement. Coincidentally it was also Lent. While the death of a child is perhaps the greatest tragedy on earth, and while we pray for no premature losses for any person, especially a child, we did not hide that it had happened. The children of all age ranges talked about how when we lose a friend, a pet, or a caregiver, the loss can seem unbearable. But the spirit of that person (or animal) enters us in a special and profound way that allows us not only to go on, but to move through the world with that spirit within us, guiding us, motivating us, enriching who we are and who we can become. Loss, with God's help, can be the vehicle for great transformation in our lives, and this is a kind of resurrection. For those on a Christian path, Jesus is the pinnacle of this transformation, the representation and the catalyst... So we are learning not to shy away from the cross, for this mysterious story is nestled deep in the child's heart already, waiting for a venue to be told, heard, expressed, and better understood. When we tell our stories during Lent in CC we do not say Jesus was "nailed" to the cross. We do not say that he "bled," for that is not what is most important. What we do say in our stories is that "Jesus' commitment to justice scared people. They persecuted and

*crucified him." "Jesus died...he was buried in a cave." "But later, Jesus was so present in the hearts of all who loved him that he was resurrected...and when you remember someone you love in your heart, they are resurrected in a new way..."*

And after we have told the story of this mystery we look for signs of resurrection all around us, in the greening earth, in our memories, and in each other. The story of the cross is about inspiration and love, loss and sadness, recollection and the miracle of carrying on, and much more. We need not hide this story of the cross from ourselves, and need not hide it from our children. It is a story that reflects the mystery of life and death that is already nestled deep in our hearts waiting to be told. Wishing you all hope and joy as we journey through Lent together.

Work like you don't need the money.

Love like you've never been hurt.

Dance like nobody's watching.

Sing like nobody's listening.

Live like it's Heaven on Earth.

Submitted by Doug Renick

## WOW! WHAT A GIVING CONGREGATION!

Recent giving (and this is only reflects the recent contributions) by our very generous Church:

Funds raised for victims of the December 27th fires in Northampton: \$712 plus 3 gift cards for groceries and 1 phone gift card.

**The Ladies Aid MITTEN TREE** in the Sanctuary over Advent collected a whopping 73 items! The hats, mittens, scarves and gloves went to Sanderson Academy, the Williamsburg Elementary School, and Safe Passage.

**Money for Haiti:** Our Church raised \$1,250 for relief work in Haiti. This includes the money collected in a basket following worship AND a gift large from the Ladies Aid.

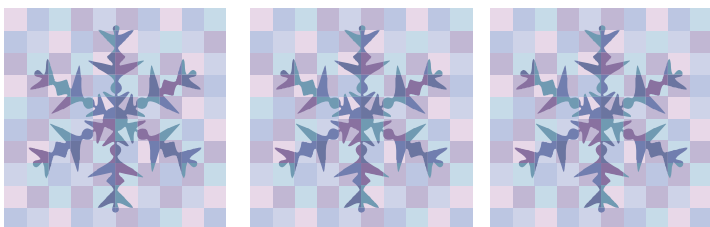
## NEW NUMBERS ON STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN!

This fall, with the economic downturn still spiraling down and our knowing we were launching a Capital Campaign to paint the Church and do other structural improvements and maintenance this summer, we set a Stewardship Goal of \$100,000 with confidence that we could meet that goal. Ann Loomis, Church Treasurer, has just announced that the final Stewardship numbers are in and we FAR EXCEEDED our goal of \$100,000. **The total that we raised in the fall Stewardship Campaign is (drum roll please!) \$126,069.11 .** Thank you one and all! You are so generous and such fine stewards of your beloved Church! Pretty amazing!

## CHURCH SNOW CLOSURE POLICY--2010

In their January Meeting, the Trustees approved the following policy for how the decision will be made to close Church in the event of a snow storm and how the news will be shared with the congregation. Please note all the steps and how you can be informed if our Church is closing due to the weather.

1. Pastor Andrea, in consultation with the Chair of the Board of Trustees, makes the decision by 7 AM on Sunday morning.
2. Pastor Andrea notifies the Assistant Pastor and the Sexton immediately of the decision. The Sexton phones Chair of the Grounds Committee who then notifies the plowing service. The Assistant Pastor calls the Webmaster and the announcement of the closing goes on the website. These calls are made by 7:20.
3. The Chair of Trustees notifies WHMP and Channel 22. The announcement of the closing is then on the radio and on the "crawl" at the bottom of Channel 22.
4. Pastor Andrea calls the Clerk and the Choir Director. The Choir Director calls the Organist. The Clerk sends out an all Church broadcast e-mail message to notify the congregation.
5. Pastor Andrea makes sure the signs announcing the Church closure are put on all Church doors. Pastor Andrea changes the announcement on the Church voice mail.



## MEN'S LENTEN POTLUCK SUPPER

Tobias Davis, Doug Renick and Phil Hall invite the men in the Church to a Potluck Supper on Thursday, February 25th at 6 PM. Everyone is asked to bring something to share, the Church will provide cider and dessert. The agenda is open-ended, a chance for those gathered to discuss their spiritual journeys, current needs, and hopes for the future. Toby, Phil and Doug will facilitate the discussion. All men who are members and friends of the Church are most welcome--come and share a relaxed and sure to be delicious meal, and visit with the other men in the congregation.



## BRING A FRIEND TO CHURCH ON VALENTINE'S DAY

By Bonnie Atkins



When I was in elementary school, I made or bought valentines every year for all of my classmates and hoped, probably prayed, that I hadn't left anyone out. I brought home my class list and over and over I checked off every name, and picked the exact valentine for my comrades. I waited expectantly when the cards were opened and tried not to notice, at least overtly, my classmates' reactions. I wanted the day to be filled with love and fun for everyone, and I felt relieved and hopeful to be remembered by my friends.

We have a unique opportunity on Valentine's Day, February 14, this year. The day of chocolates and roses and playful cards and cupids and red hearts and St. Valentine himself just happens to fall on a Sunday. The Deacons have voted to mark this day as our second Bring A Friend To Church Sunday. It is a day of welcome. A day to extend the warmth and love of our church community to our friends and our neighbors and to all those we've wanted to invite. Bring a friend. Bring a crowd. Each will be welcomed and given a heartfelt treat. Celebrate the love in our Church community.



## CHURCH CAMP ON CAPE COD - August 2010



It's a GO! The Haydenville Church Family is heading to Craigville Conference Center on Cape Cod for Church Summer Camp together August 20 (check in at 2 PM) to August 23 (check out at 10 AM). Walking dis-

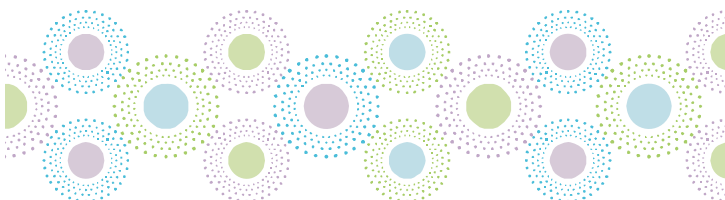
tance from the beach, this is a beautiful site and our time together will be filled with worship, singing, games, swimming, building sand castles, napping, mini workshops, a "no talent" show and other great things that can only happen when you are living side by side for a few days! Plus there will be supervised activities just for kids so parents can sneak away to the beach!

The cost is \$281 per adult for three nights (includes 8 meals and linens); \$227 for young people ages 6 to 17; and children under 5 are free. You can order vegetarian and gluten-free meals (but you must call the cook at Craigville in advance and tell him/her). The amazing news is that Church Member Maryellen McQueston HAS GOTTEN US A BUS AND WILL DRIVE 47 PEOPLE TO CRAIGVILLE IN THE BUS!! How amazing is that? Thank you Maryellen and Wow! The fun will start on the trip to Cape Cod! More about the bus trip in the next newsletter!

To reserve your spot at Craigville for this great adventure, please see Camp Registrar Carolyn Du Bois who has registration forms and will happily accept your check (\$35 per person to hold your spot). Make checks payable to: Haydenville Congregational Church. This is going to be a great and hilarious time! Join us!

### CAN'T GO TO CRAIGVILLE? ENJOY DAY CAMP WITH GLORIA

Gloria Ayvazian invites all those who cannot make the trip to Craigville on the Cape to share a picnic together at Look Park on August 21 at noon. We'll reserve a picnic site and publicize the site number so you can find Gloria in her folding chair ready to PARTY! Bring things to grill and a picnic lunch and enjoy a lovely day at Look Park with the Church gang that does not travel to the Cape! Questions? Want to be part of Day Camp with Gloria? Call her at 413.584.4899.



## MEN'S DROP-IN SUPPORT GROUP

By Gary Stone

I would like to facilitate a Men's Drop-in Support Circle for the men in our Church. All are welcome. The circle will meet weekly for eight Wednesdays beginning February 10 from 6:30 to 8:15 PM. The format is a drop-in basis, there is no expectation of ongoing attendance. You come when you choose. We will follow a model used at the Men's Resource Center: participants will agree to a simple set of ground rules that provide a "safe container" for the sharing: topics originate from current issues brought by the men present on a given evening so each meeting is self-contained; there will be sufficient time for relaxed and deep sharing and there will be a clear and well defined beginning and end to each meeting with an understanding that being there start-to-finish enhances the feeling of trust among participants. We will focus more on heart than on head, more on listening than fixing, and more on being heard than on getting or giving advice. There will be a sense of respect and safety around all feelings. Feel free to e-mail or phone ahead with input or for more details, or just come and we'll get started! All men most welcome, I hope you will join me! Gary Stone: phone: 413.253.0973, e-mail: [for1gstone@yahoo.com](mailto:for1gstone@yahoo.com)

### EXPLORING "CIRCLES OF TRUST"

By Paula Spencer

Our Church Book Group read Parker Palmer's Hidden Wholeness: The Journey Toward an Undivided Life last spring. Several of us were impressed by Palmer's Circle of Trust approach, which creates a "quiet, focused and disciplined space in which to allow one's soul to speak." Lisa Hall and Carol Rinehart would like to explore the creation of a Circle of Trust that would meet during Lent. Please speak with Lisa or Carol if you might be interested in participating. On Saturday, February 13 there will be a viewing of a DVD about Palmer and his work, and Circles of Trust in the Church Dining Room at 10:30 and all are welcome.

In doing research for a work project, I came across this passage from Sojourner Truth's speech *Ain't I a Woman*, given in 1851 in Akron, Ohio. Sounds like it would resonate with our congregation.

#### *Ain't I a Woman*

"Then that little man in black there, he says women can't have as much rights as men, 'cause Christ wasn't a woman! Where did your Christ come from? Where did your Christ come from? From God and a woman! Man had nothing to do with Him."

Submitted by Paul Dunphy

## COLORS AND DREAMS

By Trish LaFreniere



Do you have those mid winter blues? Are you sick of white snow and gray skies? Do you dream of a warm place, full of great music and really fabulous cookies? Well, I have just the spot for you!

“COLORS AND DREAMS”: A NIGHT OF GREAT MUSIC PERFORMED BY LOCAL MUSICIANS  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2<sup>ND</sup> FROM 7-9 PM

In January, after the bustle of the holidays, I get a little depressed. I am longing for Spring. I'm sick of cold weather and long, dark nights. I miss my husband, who passed away one awful February night. So, instead of weeping or muttering to my cat, I decided 5 years ago to take a positive approach. That's how the February Music Night was created. We have so much talent in our community, so I gather together some local musicians to chase away my blues. My sister Shirley gleefully manages the kitchen, because, of course we need cookies too! (Sure cure for anything.)

Interested? Do you want to sing a song or two? We warmly welcome anyone who wants to perform, solo or group. The theme this year is any song about dreams or a color. (think: “Dream a Little Dream of Me” or “It’s Not that easy Being Green”) Just talk to me, I’ll sign you up.

Can't sing? Then just come along to our warm and lovely church and be wrapped up in the music. I promise you'll feel better.

Like to bake? Talk to Shirley. Any kitchen help will be gladly accepted.

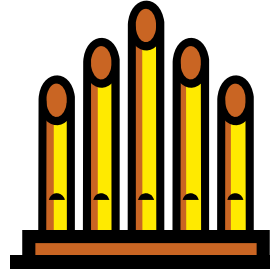
This year, the free will donation at the door will go directly to Capital Campaign, to keep our church a shining white symbol of hope silhouetted against the deep blue skies.

Trish LaFreniere 413.268.7254 and Shirley Warner 413.268.7016 or 413.320.8206.



## LOOKING AHEAD! MARK YOUR CALENDARS! MAKE A DATE WITH BACH

Benefit Organ Concert March 13



Make a date with JS Bach and boost the Capital Campaign! Help paint the church, renew the windows, and restore the old floor beams just by sitting in the pews listening to our lovely organ. If that sounds like your style of restoration buy a ticket - or two - for the benefit

organ concert Saturday, March 13 at 3 p.m.

Trinity College senior and assistant college organist Matthew Dunphy Phinney - our own Matt Phinney - will perform works by German, French and English composers, and maybe an Irish jig or two, to help boost the White Steeple Fund.

Matt is a music and math major at Trinity, a national Goldwater Scholar and Phi Beta Kappa member. He spent his junior year in England where he studied organ at Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford. He started organ studies in high school with Dana Pasquale at First Churches in Northampton, and later studied with Five College Organist Grant Moss. At Trinity Matt was named the 2010 John Rose Organ Scholar.

Buy a ticket. Enjoy the music. It's sooo much easier than swinging a paint brush. Tickets available in advance (see Pastor Andrea) or at the door. Ticket prices: \$10, \$7 for seniors and students. Special price for "Patrons" who want to support our Capital Campaign: \$25.

Thank you one and all and see you at the concert!

## CHILDREN'S CHURCH DECEMBER SERVICE

By Shirley Sicurello

Many Thanks to Pastor Matilda, Children's Church Teachers, and the Wonderful Children who participated in the December 27, 2009 Sunday Service. It was educational, refreshing, entertaining and, at times, downright funny (love the things the kids say)! Pastor Matilda has a way of relating to the children that is a pleasure to observe, and it is obvious that she enjoys them. We are very fortunate to have the dynamic Children's Church leadership that we have. I look forward to the services to come.

## HAYDENVILLE CHURCH AND SOCIETY: THE BEGINNING

By Kathleen Kent

This is part two of an article published in the January newsletter. Somewhat edited and abridged, it describes the formation of the church, 1850 -1851.

HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE AND NORTHAMPTON COURIER  
VOLUME LXXIV. - NO. 50  
TUESDAY, JULY 17, 1860  
THE CHURCH AND SOCIETY

(As early as 1785 the village of Haydenville appeared as a manufacturing site and by the year 1848 the "larger life and enterprise of the village began. This larger movement gave rise to the feeling that there should be a village church. A society was formed first on March 4, 1849 under the leadership of Joel Hayden and A. D. Sanders.)

The Society having been thus formed, the question of erecting a house of worship was next considered, and measures were taken to procure the necessary pecuniary means. This being accomplished during the ensuing summer, a building committee was appointed, consisting of Joel Hayden, R.H. Fairchild, and Spencer Root. The "Longley place" was purchased for the site of the edifice, and during the fall the foundation work of the house was laid under the direction of Warham Pomeroy of Easthampton. The frame of the building was raised May 13, 1850, and in February, 1851, the edifice was completed. The edifice is 48 feet wide by 75 feet long, including a recess for the pulpit, 6 feet deep. The spire is 150 feet in height. The appearance of the edifice, both inside and out, is tasty and ever pleasing to the eye. It was finished in a superior manner, and cost, originally, between ten and twelve thousand dollars, over two-thirds of which was paid by Joel Hayden, Esq. Several other gentlemen contributed, proportionately, with equal liberality. (The State Historical Commission lists this building as an outstanding example of Greek Revival architecture.)

Previous to the completion of the meeting-house, weekly meetings for the public worship were held in the brick button factory, now known as the brass works factory. Preaching services were held as early as 1848, and neighborhood prayer meetings as early as 1817.

### ECO TIP!

The average person in the U.S. goes through 350 to 500 plastic bags per year! By bringing your own reusable bags to stores, you can save ocean life, reduce our oil consumption (bags are made from oil), and prevent all of those bags from going into landfills. If you've already got lots of plastic bags or plastic product wrappers, you can bring them back to most major grocery stores for recycling.

## CHURCH BOOK GROUP FEBRUARY MEETING

By Paula Spencer



Popular author Anne Lamott's Grace (Eventually): Thoughts on Faith is our February selection. One review described the book as a collection of "... funny, smart and prayerful essays-to-live-by" (Booklist).

We'll meet on Saturday, February 13th in the Church Dining Room at 9:30. A portion of the meeting will be devoted to viewing a DVD about Parker Palmer and his work.

### Irish Friendship Wish

May there always be work for your  
hands to do;  
May your purse always hold a coin or two;  
May the sun always shine  
on your windowpane;  
May a rainbow be certain to follow each rain;  
May the hand of a friend always be near you;  
May God fill your heart with  
gladness to cheer you.  
And may you be in heaven a  
half hour before the devil  
knows you're dead.

Submitted by Doug Renick

### CHURCH COFFEE HOUR: THE LINE-UP FOR FEBRUARY

Delicious goodies appear each and every Sunday for our Coffee Hour time of fellowship and sharing because YOU bring them each week! Bless you and thank you. Remember that the week you bring food, you also help set up and clean up. Here's the line-up:

February 7: P, Q, R, S

February 14: T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z

February 21: A, B, C

February 28: D, E, F, G



## HAYDENVILLE CHURCH CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

After 158 years, it is not surprising that our beautiful, historic church is in need of repair and restoration—work that is over and above routine maintenance. For that reason, the Church Trustees have initiated a Capital Campaign—entitled **“Save Our White Steeple”**—in order to raise \$100,000 between January and September 2010.

That is a lot of money, but there is much to be done. Clapboards need to be replaced and our peeling exterior walls need to be primed and painted. The wonderful tall windows that allow warm sunlight to pour into the sanctuary are so old and leaky that they also let in cold drafts, and let out heat generated by our aging boilers. The windows need to be repaired and restored now, and the status of the heating plant needs to be evaluated. We will share more specifics of the work to be completed in future newsletters.

We need only to read the sad stories of so many churches being closed in the past few months to realize how blessed we are that the Haydenville Congregational Church is a vibrant and growing church whose membership has grown tenfold over the past four years...and we continue to grow, Praise God! Yet while our congregation thrives, our church building, the home of our faith community and a historic landmark, is sorely in need of your contribution to Save our White Steeple.

One of the most important messages to convey is the extraordinary talent we have working on the capital campaign. Introducing the team that is working diligently in securing the needed funds for the projects the trustees have earmarked in repairing and restoring our beautiful church.

### Committee Members:

Pastor Andrea Ayvazian	Lisa Kautz
Robert Davis	Trish LaFreniere
Kate Davidheiser	Jim Palermo
Judy Haigler	Martha Smith

Trish LaFreniere kicked off our capital campaign sharing her heartfelt and moving decades tribute. As one of the original saints she spoke about how important the church has been to her at different moments in her life and why she felt so passionate in raising funds to insure our church will continue to be there for decades to come. Trish and our Pastor Andrea have teamed up as our lead gifts team reaching out to those in our community and beyond that can lead us in our effort by their generous contributions.

Robert Davis and Jim Palermo have worked in crafting our

campaign message – if you like “the why we are launching this effort.” They have been working on messages that speak both to our church community and also those connected to our community who either realize how important our church is to us (which is why they would be moved to support us) or admire deeply the work that is done daily regarding social justice and again want to assist us in this effort through offering financial support.

Martha Smith and Jim Palermo have been investigating potential grant funding for future projects. Trustee Paul Dunphy toured the building with Historic Preservationist Greg Farmer and Amherst Architect Bill Gillen on January 12. The experts conducted an initial structural inspection and offered recommendations as to how best to approach the necessary restorations. They were impressed by the work that has been done to preserve and maintain the building over the years, and offered advice as to how best to approach grant funding options.

Judy Haigler and Kate Davidheiser are working with the businesses here in Haydenville and sharing why this great historical building smack in the center of our Village needs their support in looking its very best! They are out canvassing all the businesses in town and trying to secure donations in our effort to improve this beautiful church’s appearance to all.

Another exciting project Judy Haigler has led is in setting up an online donation page on our website. With the assistance of our Web Guru Tobias Davis they are about to launch a page dedicated to securing online donations. We dearly understand the challenges most folks are facing in regards to the current economic climate and we felt that this tool can assist us in reaching beyond our church community and offering a simple way to go to our website and make a donation. Perhaps we cannot extend the funds we would like to give personally because of the economy then in lieu of that we can work towards sharing our mission to get two, five, or ten others outside our church community to go to our website and donate to this cause....no donation is too small or too large in our minds.....much like folks do in raising for a political campaign or a cause like the Pan Mass Challenge supporting cancer research. Also, we felt those who might want to make a donation in memory or honor of someone could easily make a contribution at our website.

So, as you can see there is an extraordinary team working towards the goal of raising \$100,000. To date, we have secured one fourth of our goal and are excited to get our church community to join us in reaching and hopefully exceeding this goal. Collectively we can do so much more and it has been a personal pleasure to work with and get to know this fine team of individuals working so hard to ensure our church will be here for decades to come.

# FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Monday, February 1:	5:45 PM	Diaconate Meeting
Tuesday, February 2:	7-9 PM	Colors & Dreams: An evening of great music performed by local musicians. Awesome homemade refreshments. Free will donations at the door to benefit the Church Capital Campaign
Friday, February 5:	4 PM	Fridays at Four
Sunday, February 7:	10 AM	Worship Service with Communion. Exploring Membership Class #1 meets in the Pastor's study after Worship Service
Tuesday, February 9:	6:30 PM	Trustees Meeting
Wed., February 10:	6:30-8:15 PM	Men's Drop-In Support Circle, For more information contact Gary Stone: 413-253-0973 or email: <a href="mailto:for1gstone@yahoo.com">for1gstone@yahoo.com</a>
Thurs., February 11	5:30 PM	SOUP, SALAD AND SOCIAL CHANGE Program featuring Dr. Michael Klare "Iraq, Afghanistan and Obama: Where are we headed?" Supper at 5:30, speaker at 6:00 PM; Church Dining Room
Friday, February 12:	4 PM	Fridays at Four
Saturday, February 13:	9:30 AM	Book Group - Ann Lamott's Grace (Eventually): Thoughts on Faith - Church Dining Room, for more information see Paula Spencer
Sunday, February 14:	10 AM	Worship Service. Bring a Friend to Church on Valentine's Day Exploring Membership Class #2 meets in the Pastor's study after Worship Service
Wed., February 17:	7 PM 6:30-8:15 PM	Ash Wednesday Service, Seminary Intern, Cherylann Richards preaching Men's Drop-In Support Circle, for more information contact Gary Stone: 413-253-0973 or email: <a href="mailto:for1gstone@yahoo.com">for1gstone@yahoo.com</a>
Thursday, February 18:	1 PM	Ladies Aid Meeting, Church Dining Room
Friday, February 19:	4 PM	Fridays at Four
Sunday, February 21:	10 AM	First Sunday in Lent - Rev. Dr. Jim Antal, Guest Preacher Exploring Membership Class #3 meets in the Pastor's study after Worship Service
Monday, February 22:	4:30-6:00 PM 6:30-8:00 PM	Dining Room - Youth Group Dining Room - Children's Church Committee Meeting
Monday, February 22:	5:30 PM	Peace and Justice Meeting; Pastor's Study
Wed., February 24:	6:30-8:15 PM	Men's Drop-In Support Circle, Contact Gary Stone: 413-253-0973 or email: <a href="mailto:for1gstone@yahoo.com">for1gstone@yahoo.com</a>
Friday, February 26:	4 PM	Fridays at Four
Sunday, February 28:	10 AM	Worship Service. Second Sunday in Lent - Church Annual Meeting following worship.



## Haydenville Congregational Church

United Church of Christ  
143 Main Street, PO Box 257  
Haydenville, MA 01039

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL!

February 1 Anna Beth Avakian  
February 2 Dawn Orluske  
February 8 Valerie Hooper-Lindros  
February 9 Judy Haigler  
February 10 Abigail Pollard  
February 12 Elizabeth Brewer  
& Parker Durrant-West  
February 14 Cate Wilson  
February 15 Matilda Cantwell  
February 23 Barbara Estes  
February 24 June May  
February 26 Diane Scott

*Our Mae Smith submitted this article to the magazine GUIDEPOSTS and they published it! Mae is famous and our Church is really "on the map!" Great work Mae, we are proud of you!*

Guideposts/January 2010  
pass it on

Once in a Blue Moon

Most Churches host a coffee hour on Sunday mornings, and mine, Haydenville Congregational Church, is no different. That is, unless it's a "Blue Moon Sunday." On those days, which occur when there's a fifth Sunday in the month, members of our congregation skip the coffee and donuts, and tackle community projects instead. We sign up for one of several volunteer activities the week before, and when Sunday arrives we spend the afternoon helping others.

In the two years this program has been running, we've led bingo at the VA hospital, worked on Habitat for Humanity builds and spruced up our Sunday school classrooms. Not all members of our church participate each time, but enough do to make it worthwhile. Our next Blue Moon Sunday is January 31. Care to join us?

Mae V. Smith  
Williamsburg, Massachusetts

ORIGINAL VERSION  
Guideposts/January 2010  
pass it on

Once in a Blue Moon

In our church, Haydenville Congregational Church, UCC, Haydenville, Mass., when there is a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in the month, we call it "Blue Moon Sunday", and in place of our regular coffee hour following our service, we divide into groups and do community service projects together.

Some may help with a project that needs doing in the church, some play BINGO with the Vets at a nearby VA hospital. Some help with a Habitat for Humanity build, or sing hymns and familiar songs at a local nursing home, or help lead a Vesper service at a retirement community, or help an older person with yard work.

There are 4 "Blue Moon Sundays" each year, and the projects vary during the different seasons of the year – but each one is useful and enjoyed by the "givers" and appreciated by the receivers, and adds to the closeness of our church family.

Mae V. Smith  
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